



Big Deals

You don't need to spend a fortune to get the right PC, but pay too little and your system will lack essential features. We test six systems that are big on power and performance and cost just £850

When buying a PC, you have to be careful not to spend too much or too little. Buying one of the most expensive PCs may guarantee you huge amounts of computing power, but unless you need to use demanding applications you'll be wasting money that could be better spent elsewhere. Similarly, there are real bargains to be found among the cheapest

PCs, but if they don't provide the features you need for what you want to do you could end up spending a lot more on expensive upgrades. For most home computer users, the ideal price lies somewhere between £600 and a grand.

We've tested six complete PC systems that cost just £850 including VAT and delivery. At this price, you can be sure of getting a computer powerful enough to steam through easy jobs

such as surfing the web, and ready to tackle more demanding tasks such as image editing. Most include extras such as surround sound speakers, printers and even wireless networking.

Whether you want a PC for playing media files in the living room, destroying hordes of brain-munching zombies in a 3D game or tweaking digital video and photographs to perfection, we'll help you pick the perfect PC. ➔

IN THIS REVIEW

Carrera Octan CS-02
Evesham Axis RD
Gladiator Retiarius 3800X2
HP Pavilion m7151uk
Mesh Matrix Vector CS Max
PC Nextday Zoostorm 6-5403





CHOOSING AN... £850 PC

Spending £850 on a PC won't automatically guarantee you a system that suits your needs – so before you dip into your savings, read on. Our advice will help you find a PC that could have been made for you

Before you buy a computer, it's always important to consider what you want to use it for. Each manufacturer that submitted a PC for this test has spent its £850 budget in a different way, so while most are excellent value not all will be right for you. By having a good idea of your priorities, you will be able to make sure your new computer is ready for any task you want to throw at it.

BALANCE OF POWER

Two of the most expensive parts of a PC are its processor and graphics card. In the simplest terms, a PC that has had more money spent on its processor will be faster in Windows applications such as Paint Shop Pro or Adobe Photoshop. If the manufacturer spends more money on its computer's 3D graphics card, it will be able to play 3D games faster and at higher detail levels.

If, however, you do not intend to play 3D games, you should pay closer attention to the results of our *Shopper* application benchmarks. These show how well each PC can run demanding Windows applications, so you should pick one with a high score. If gaming is your passion, take a look at the results of our Doom 3 test. This shows which PCs have the power to run 3D games with high levels of graphical detail.

If you're not sure about gaming, or you would like to dabble in Doom 3 when you're not juggling spreadsheets, look for a PC that scores well in both tests. Two PCs this month, made by Carrera and PC Nextday, are ranked in the top three for both and are extremely versatile computers.

MEDIA STUDIES

Most people think of a computer as a way of browsing the internet, typing a letter and maybe playing some games. Today's PCs can do so much more, though, and Media Center computers are particularly versatile.

Microsoft's Windows XP Media Center Edition is a special version of Windows XP that's designed for playing music, viewing photographs and watching TV. It has a simple, clear interface that is designed to be easily operated using a remote control.

Two computers in this group run the Media Center operating

◀ **Windows Media Center is included with HP's Pavilion m7151uk and Evesham's Axis RD, and the Pavilion PC comes with a remote control, too**



▲ **Surround sound has been provided by a couple of the systems in our roundup; both Carrera's Octan CS-02 and Mesh's Matrix Vector CS Max come with Creative 5.1 speakers**

system, but they're very different. HP's Pavilion is a traditional Media Center. It has no screen and is designed to connect to a television. It includes a TV tuner and has a remote control so the system can be operated from the comfort of your sofa. Evesham's Axis RD has a monitor, but no remote control or TV tuner. Its Media Center software provides a simple way to show photos or play music, but it won't replace your television.

SOUND ADVICE

Every PC in this group has an audio processor chip on its motherboard that is capable of producing surround sound. Only two, however, have surround-sound speakers. If you want to play 3D games, having surround-sound speakers is an advantage – it's better to hear your enemy sneaking up behind you, for example, than to stand in blissful ignorance until he shoots you in the head. For listening to music or the amusing bleeping noises that Windows likes to make from time to time, the stereo speaker sets included with the other computers are just as good.

FIREWIRE WORRY

We were surprised to see that three of the PCs in this group do not include any FireWire ports. This isn't a problem for most people, as devices such as external hard disks can be connected just as easily using USB. If you have a digital video camera,

though, you'll need a FireWire port to transfer video footage to your computer for editing or to create a DVD. It's a particularly frustrating omission on the Carrera Octan, which would otherwise be ideal for video editing thanks to its dual-core processor and huge hard disk. If you choose to buy a computer without a FireWire port, you should budget £15 for a PCI-to-FireWire adaptor.

WARRANTY WANTED

Warranties are often overlooked when buying a PC, but they become very important if your computer breaks down. Most of the PCs in this group come with onsite service for at least one year, so during that period the manufacturer or vendor will fix the equipment in your home. This is much more convenient than a return to base (RTB) warranty, especially if you use your PC for work.

The table on page 170 shows what kind of warranty is included with each PC, with details of when you can get technical support by telephone.

SOMETHING ELSE

Several manufacturers this month have gone beyond what we usually expect from a PC system by adding some extra components and peripherals. Although these are never as important as picking a computer with the right amount of power and a good monitor, they can be a valuable addition that saves you money in the long run.

Two manufacturers, Evesham and PC Nextday, have included multifunction printers. These devices enable you to copy and scan documents as well as print them. If you're buying your first PC, this is a useful extra.

PC Nextday has gone one step further by including a wireless networking adaptor as standard. This is great if you also have a notebook computer – you'll be able to share files and a broadband internet connection between the two computers without cables.

▼ **Evesham's Axis RD and PC Nextday's Zoostorm 6-5403 come with multifunction peripherals that let you copy and scan as well as print documents**





CARRERA Octan CS-02



RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £850 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Watford Electronics

0871 666 1616

DETAILS www.savastore.com

Carrera's PC is powerful in Windows applications and games, and comes with a large hard disk and surround-sound speakers. It would have been even better with a FireWire port.

FEATURES

The Octan CS-02 is housed in a professional-looking Cooler Master case that has plenty of room for future expansion. Annoyingly, though, it has no memory card reader. The wired Microsoft keyboard and mouse are comfortable to use.

The Octan is one of only two PCs on test with surround-sound speakers, and its Creative Inspire P5800 set is ideal for gaming. It's also one of only two PCs to include a large 250GB hard disk. The system has a one-year onsite warranty.

The 17" Sony flat-panel monitor is easy to adjust, so you can set it up in a comfortable position. Its backlight is slightly uneven, though, and white areas of the screen were not totally pure. Carrera's graphics card has two DVI outputs, so you could always connect a second LCD screen digitally.

PERFORMANCE

This PC uses a dual-core Athlon 64 X2 3800+ processor and 1GB of RAM, making it one of the fastest on test. It beat every challenger in our application benchmarks, scoring 156 overall. Its video-encoding score of 180 is impressive, but with no FireWire port it needs an upgrade to make it suitable for editing digital video footage.

In our Doom 3 test, the Octan lost the top spot to the PC Nextday system, but wasn't far behind. It scored 39.8fps, which proves that its 256MB ATI Radeon X800GT graphics card is a good choice for gaming.

VERDICT

This is a powerful computer, and a FireWire card would make it good for video editing. Its monitor isn't perfect, but it's still a great buy.

✓ Very fast in Windows; plenty of 3D speed; surround-sound speakers

✗ No FireWire ports; no memory card reader; monitor not perfect

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 X2 3800+, 1GB RAM, 250GB hard disk, 256MB ATI Radeon X800GT, DVD+/-RW DL, 17" LCD



EVESHAM Axis RD

RATING ★★★

PRICE £850 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Evesham 08701 609500

DETAILS www.evesham.com

The Evesham Axis RD has great 3D games performance and a combined printer and scanner, but is lacking in other important areas.

FEATURES

The Axis RD comes with Windows XP Media Center Edition 2005 installed, but has no TV tuner and no remote control. It still has some advantages: you could connect a TV through the S-video output, and use its simple interface to browse photos and videos on the big screen.

Evesham has decided to include a Canon PIXMA MP150 multifunction peripheral, but this has left no money for a memory card reader or floppy disk drive. The MP150's print quality is adequate, and its scanner has a flexible hinge that makes scanning chunky objects such as thick books easier.

The 17" ViewSonic monitor provides good contrast and greyscale transitions are smooth. Unfortunately, colour reproduction is not perfect, and colours are less consistent than with other monitors in the group. Evesham's excellent warranty includes two years of onsite service.

PERFORMANCE

The 2.2GHz Athlon 64 3500+ processor is one of the slowest in the group, and this is reflected in our benchmarks. The Evesham system scored just 104 overall in our application benchmarks, the slowest result here. It is one of three PCs in the group with only 512MB of memory.

The Axis RD acquitted itself in our Doom 3 benchmark, where it ran at 39.7fps. The nVidia GeForce 6600GT graphics card is a fine choice and will satisfy most 3D gamers.

VERDICT

The Axis RD is disappointing. It's the slowest here in Windows applications, and it lacks a floppy disk drive and memory card reader. It has a decent 3D card and a multifunction printer, but then so does the more powerful PC Nextday.

✓ Good 3D performance; multifunction printer; great warranty

✗ Slowest in Windows; 512MB of memory; average monitor

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3500+, 512MB RAM, 200GB hard disk, 128MB nVidia GeForce 6600GT, DVD+/-RW DL, 17" LCD



GLADIATOR Retiarius 3800X2

RATING ★★★

PRICE £850 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Gladiator Computers

08456 444666

DETAILS www.gladiatorcomputers.com

The Retiarius is a powerful PC thanks to its dual-core processor. It's attractive but 3D performance could be better.

FEATURES

The Retiarius is arguably the most attractive PC in the group. It has no FireWire ports, so connecting a DV camera would be tricky, but you get a whopping 10 USB2 ports. At this price, we'd prefer to see a larger hard disk than the 160GB one used here.

The bundled Logitech wired keyboard and mouse are comfortable, but there's no memory card reader. The Hyundai 17" LCD monitor has no DVI input, but it produces a sharp image anyway. No onsite warranty is included.

PERFORMANCE

Like Carrera's Octan, the Retiarius has a dual-core AMD Athlon 64 X2 3800+ processor and 1GB of RAM. Its hard disk is smaller, though, and its graphics card isn't as powerful. Accordingly, its score of 142 in our benchmarks is impressive but a little behind the Octan's 156. This dual-core processor would be ideal for video editing, but with a 160GB hard disk and no FireWire port this system isn't suitable for serious video work.

Its performance in 3D games is not so impressive. The nVidia GeForce 6600 graphics processor it uses is slower than most in the group, and with its score of 23.2fps in Doom 3 the Gladiator system beat only the HP Pavilion. It will suffice for the occasional game, but if you are more serious about 3D gaming it's worth choosing a PC with a better graphics card.

VERDICT

The Retiarius is powerful in Windows, but it's a shame that this power can't easily be harnessed for video editing. It's not one for regular gamers, either. Carrera's PC is much faster in 3D and a bit quicker in Windows, too.

✓ Impressive Windows performance; loads of USB ports

✗ Poor 3D performance; small hard disk; no FireWire ports

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 X2 3800+, 1GB RAM, 160GB hard disk, 256MB nVidia GeForce 6600, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 17" LCD



HP Pavilion m7151uk

RATING ★★

PRICE £715 inc VAT

SUPPLIER HP 08452 704142

DETAILS www.hp.com/uk

The Pavilion is a cheap Media Center PC, but it has no screen and only one analogue TV tuner.

FEATURES

Like Evesham's Axis RD, HP's Pavilion runs Microsoft's Windows XP Media Center Edition operating system. It comes without a monitor, though, so you'll have to connect it to a TV. It has an analogue TV tuner so you can watch and record television programmes, but with only one tuner it can't display one channel and record another simultaneously. The small 160GB hard disk won't hold a large collection of TV shows.

You can add storage using the Personal Media Drive slot for HP removable USB hard disks. Sadly these are hard to find, and with no free bays inside the case you can't add another internal hard disk. No onsite warranty is included.

The DVD writer can write labels to special LightScribe discs, but it's slow burning DVD-R and two-layer discs. The case interior is cramped and there's no floppy disk drive. Remote control transceivers occupy two of the six USB ports: one for the Media Center remote control and one for the wireless keyboard and mouse.

PERFORMANCE

The Pavilion uses a 3GHz Pentium 4 processor and 1GB of RAM. Pentium 4 processors score well in our video-encoding tests, but the dual-core Athlon 64 X2 processors in this group fared even better. The PC scored a modest 106 overall in our application benchmarks.

The Radeon X300SE graphics card is the least powerful on test. It ran our Doom 3 test at just 6.7fps and is unsuitable for modern 3D games.

VERDICT

HP's Pavilion m7151uk is an inexpensive Media Center PC, but it has limitations. It has only one TV tuner and its small hard disk limits the number of programmes you can record. It's not a good choice if you want to play 3D games.

✓ Reasonably inexpensive Media Center

✗ No monitor; small hard disk; no use for gaming

SPECIFICATIONS 3GHz Intel Pentium 4, 1GB RAM, 160GB hard disk, 256MB ATI Radeon X300SE, DVD+/-RW DL, no display



MESH Matrix Vector CS Max

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £849 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Mesh Computers 08700 464747

DETAILS www.meshcomputers.com

The Matrix is a well-rounded computer system, but like two others here it has no FireWire ports.

FEATURES

The Matrix comes in a large black case and has a decent onsite warranty. It is one of two PCs on test with surround-sound speakers and has two optical disc drives, making disc-to-disc copying easy. A cordless Logitech mouse and keyboard are also included.

The 17" ViewSonic LCD monitor produces bright and rich images with smooth colour transitions and accurate colours. It performed particularly well in our greyscale transition test. The monitor can swivel into a vertical position, but the ViewSonic drivers that enable this seem buggy and sometimes crashed our PC. If you want to rotate the screen without the danger of crashing, use ATI's Catalyst Control Centre utility instead. The Matrix performed well in our image-manipulation test, but photographers might be annoyed no memory card reader is included.

PERFORMANCE

The Matrix's 2.2GHz Athlon 64 3500+ processor is one of the slowest in the group, but unlike Evesham's PC it is helped by 1GB of RAM. It scored 109 overall in our application benchmarks, and its score of 122 in the image manipulation test was the best here. The processor struggled to score 100 in our video-encoding test, though, and with no FireWire ports it's not a good choice for video editing.

The 256MB ATI Radeon X800 helped the Matrix run our Doom 3 test at 39.8fps. The Matrix should satisfy most 3D gaming fans, but it's not as powerful as the PC Nextday system.

VERDICT

Mesh's Matrix performs well in 3D games and respectably in Windows. It's got surround-sound speakers and two optical drives, but you must add a FireWire card for editing digital video.

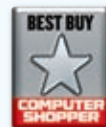
✓ Good 3D speed; surround-sound speakers

✗ Windows performance only average; no FireWire ports

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3500+, 1GB RAM, 200GB hard disk, 256MB ATI Radeon X800, DVD+/-RW DL, DVD-ROM, 17" LCD



PC NEXTDAY Zoostorm 6-5403



RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £850 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.pcnextday.co.uk

DETAILS www.pcnextday.co.uk

PC Nextday's Zoostorm has the best 3D graphics card in the group and is fast in Windows, too. It comes with a printer, wireless networking and a large hard disk, but only 512MB of memory and no onsite warranty.

FEATURES

The Zoostorm has lots of connectivity options, including four FireWire ports, Gigabit Ethernet and wireless networking. It is one of only two PCs in the group that have two optical drives, and it has a large 250GB hard disk. The PC itself has no onsite warranty, although the monitor and printer are covered by their manufacturers.

PC Nextday has decided to pair the Zoostorm with an AOC LM728 17" monitor. It is sharp but produces a disappointingly bluish white. It performed acceptably in our greyscale transition test, but some banding was visible.

An HP PSC 1410 multifunction peripheral is also included. This outputs pin-sharp black text, albeit at a rather ponderous rate, and its scanner is impressive. Unfortunately, its printing costs can be quite high as it accepts only low-capacity ink cartridges. It received two stars in our *What's New* review in *Shopper* October 2005.

PERFORMANCE

The Zoostorm is equipped with the fastest single-core processor in this group, a 2.4GHz AMD Athlon 64 3800+. Although it has only 512MB of RAM, the Zoostorm still scored a decent 118 in our application benchmarks.

The 128MB GeForce 6800XT graphics card is the best in this group. It managed 46fps in our Doom 3 test and should keep most 3D games fans satisfied for some time.

VERDICT

The Zoostorm has no onsite warranty and only 512MB of RAM. Still, it is fast in 3D games and performs well in Windows. If you'll use the wireless networking and printer, it's a great buy.

✓ Great gaming performance; wireless networking; big hard disk

✗ No onsite warranty; only 512MB of memory

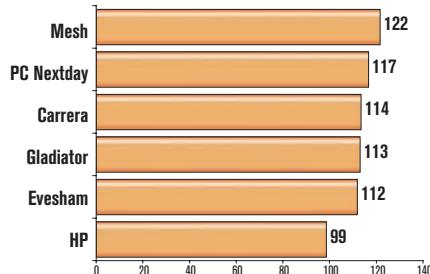
SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3800+, 512MB RAM, 250GB hard disk, 128MB nVidia GeForce 6800XT, DVD+/-RW DL, DVD-ROM, 17" LCD



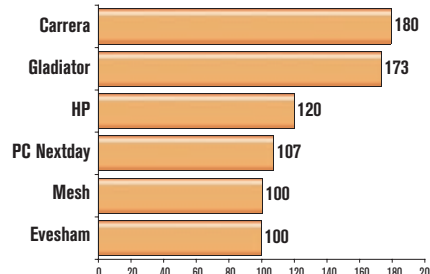
BENCHMARKS

2D Performance **Shopper application tests**

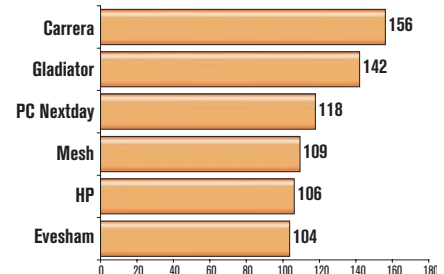
Image-Editing Test



Video-Encoding Test



Overall



SETTINGS We run our application tests at 1,024x768 resolution and in 32-bit colour
WEB www.computershopper.co.uk

Computer Shopper's 2D benchmarks are designed to show how PCs stand up to the toughest tasks Windows can throw at them. Today's PCs have no problem running office applications such as Word and Excel, so we chose to focus our tests on areas where you could experience difficulties.

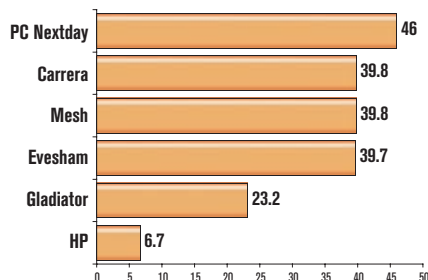
In version 1.0 there are three scripts. Our image-editing test simulates a session of photo enhancement using Paint Shop Pro, culminating with the memory-intensive composition of a

panorama from a set of digital snaps. Encoding a short video to MPEG-2 format is an extremely processor-intensive task, and one that anyone interested in transferring home videos to DVD will have to tackle. Finally, a set of MP3s is generated by ripping an audio CD.

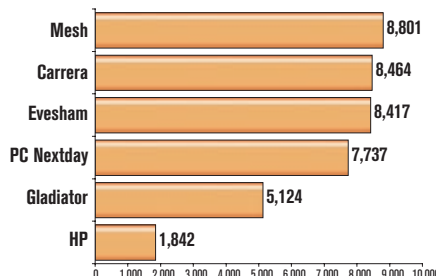
We compiled the tests with the help of our sister magazine for performance computing, *Custom PC*. Figures are relative to a reference Evesham Athlon 64 3500+ system, which scores 100 in all tests.

3D Performance **Doom 3/3DMark03**

Doom 3 (fps)

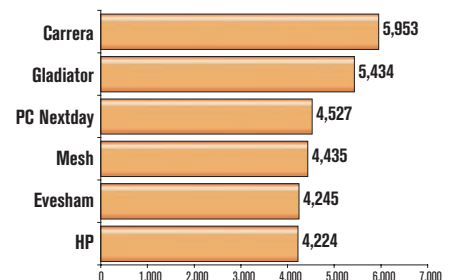


3DMark03



PCMark04

PCMark04



SETTINGS 1,024x768 resolution, high quality, 4x AA
WEB www.doom3.com

We run a timed demo in Doom 3 to test whether a PC has the power needed to play cutting-edge 3D games with ease. A good score here means that it should cope with any graphically intense 3D game.



SETTINGS 1,024x768 resolution, 32-bit colour, default settings
WEB www.futuremark.com

3DMark03 is Futuremark's 3D benchmark. It comprises four game tests from four different genres. The workload is representative of games coming on to the market now.



SETTINGS 1,024x768 resolution, 32-bit colour, default settings
WEB www.futuremark.com

As well as our own benchmarks, we test all desktop and notebook PCs using Futuremark's PCMark04. You can download a free version of this benchmark from www.futuremark.com/download.

LABS VERDICT **£850 PCs**

The PCs in this group prove that you can buy a powerful and well-equipped computer for £850 including VAT. Whether you want a flash Media Center PC or a powerful dual-core system, we've tested a computer to suit.

Evesham's Axis RD has a great warranty and is fast in 3D games, but it's not that powerful in Windows. Gladiator's Retarius 3800X2 is the opposite: its dual-core processor is great in demanding Windows tasks, but budget graphics make it slower than most in games. HP's Pavilion is a Media Center

computer for the living room, but with just one analogue TV tuner and a small hard disk it's not great for TV addicts.

Mesh's Matrix Vector CS Max has two optical drives and a decent monitor, but it's overshadowed by the Carrera and PC Nextday systems. PC Nextday's Zoostorm 6-5403 is powerful for games, fast in Windows and has wireless networking and a multifunction printer. If you prefer an onsite warranty to wireless networking and a printer, Carrera's Octan CS-02 is the system for you. Both these PCs are our Best Buys.

CARRERA Octan CS-02



PC NEXTDAY Zoostorm 6-5403





MANUFACTURER	CARRERA	EVESHAM	GLADIATOR	HP	MESH	PC NEXTDAY
Model	Octan CS-02	Axis RD	Retiarius 3800X2	Pavilion m7151uk	Matrix Vector CS Max	Zoostorm 6-5403
Rating	★★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★★
Processor	AMD Athlon 64 X2 3800+	AMD Athlon 64 3500+	AMD Athlon 64 X2 3800+	Intel Pentium 4 630	AMD Athlon 64 3500+	AMD Athlon 64 3800+
Processor speed	2GHz	2.2GHz	2GHz	3GHz	2.2GHz	2.4GHz
Processor socket	Socket 939	Socket 939	Socket 939	Socket 775	Socket 939	Socket 939
Level I cache	2x 64KB	128KB	2x 64KB	16KB	128KB	128KB
Level II cache	2x 512KB	512KB	2x 512KB	2MB	512KB	512KB
Memory installed	1GB	512MB	1GB	1GB	1GB	512MB
Memory type	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200
Maximum memory	4GB	4GB	4GB	4GB	4GB	4GB
Motherboard	ECS nForce 4-A939	MSI RS482M2-IL	Asus A8N-E	Asus PTGD-LA	Asus A8N-E	ECS nForce 4-A939
Motherboard chipset	nVidia nForce4	ATI Radeon Xpress 200 (RS482)	nVidia nForce4 Ultra	Intel i915P	nVidia nForce4 Ultra	nVidia nForce4
BIOS	Phoenix	Phoenix	Phoenix	AMI	Phoenix	Phoenix
PORTS						
USB2 ports (front/rear)	2/4	2/4	2/8	2/4	2/6	3/4
FireWire ports (front/rear)	0/0	1/1	0/0	1/1	0/0	1/3
Networking	10/100/1,000	10/100	10/100/1,000	10/100	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000, 802.11b/g
Legacy ports	Parallel, 2 PS/2, serial	Parallel, 2 PS/2, serial	Parallel, 2 PS/2, serial	Parallel, 2 PS/2	Parallel, 2 PS/2	Parallel, 2 PS/2, serial
INTERNAL EXPANSION						
Case	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Mini tower	Midi tower	Midi tower
Case size (HxWxD)	435x202x480mm	435x222x495mm	430x180x460mm	385x192x420mm	478x207x458mm	420x210x445mm
PCI (free)	3(2)	3(2)	3(0)	3(1)	3(2)	3(1)
PCI-E x1 (free)	2(2)	0(0)	2(1)	0(0)	2(1)	2(2)
PCI-E x16 (free)	1(0)	1(0)	1(0)	1(0)	1(0)	1(0)
AGP (free)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Serial ATA (free)	4(3)	4(3)	4(3)	4(3)	4(3)	4(3)
Memory (free)	4(2)	4(2)	4(2)	4(2)	4(2)	4(2)
Drive bays 3½" (free)	5(3)	2(1)	3(2)	1(0)	3(1)	3(1)
Drive bays 5¼" (free)	5(4)	2(1)	2(1)	2(1)	3(1)	3(1)
HARD DISK						
Model	Western Digital Caviar WD2500JD-00HBB0	Western Digital Caviar SE WD2000JD-22HBC0	Western Digital Caviar WD1600JS-00MHB0	Seagate Barracuda 7200.7 ST3160023AS	Maxtor DiamondMax 10 6B200M0	Western Digital Caviar SE WDC WD2500JS-60MHB1
Interface	SATA 150	SATA 150	SATA 300	SATA 150	SATA 150	SATA 300
Capacity	250GB	200GB	160GB	160GB	200GB	250GB
Spin speed	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm
GRAPHICS						
Technology	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express
Graphics card	Power Color X800GT 256MB	Leadtek GeForce 6600GT	Asus Extreme N6600 Silencer	ATI Radeon X300SE	ATI Radeon X800	Inno3D GeForce 6800XT
Graphics chipset	ATI Radeon X800GT	nVidia GeForce 6600GT	nVidia GeForce 6600	ATI Radeon X300SE	ATI Radeon X800	nVidia GeForce 6800XT
Graphics memory	256MB	128MB	256MB	256MB	256MB	128MB
Graphics/video ports	2x DVI, S-video out	DVI, D-sub, S-video out	DVI, D-sub, S-video out	D-sub, composite in/out, S-video in/out	DVI, D-sub, S-video out	DVI, D-sub, S-video out
SOUND						
Sound card	Realtek ALC655	Realtek ALC658	Realtek ALC850	Realtek ALC880	Realtek ALC850	Realtek ALC655
Sound card outputs	5.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF out	5.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF out	5.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF out, optical S/PDIF out	5.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF out, optical S/PDIF out	5.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF out, optical S/PDIF out	5.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF out
Speakers	Creative P5800 5.1	Creative i-Trigue 3200 2.1	Creative Inspire T3030 2.1	Altec Lansing VS2121 2.1	Creative Inspire T6060 5.1	Zoostorm S2176 2.1
REMOVABLE DRIVES						
Floppy drive 3½"	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Memory card reader	No	No	No	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick, Smart Media, MicroDrive, xD	No	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick, Smart Media, MicroDrive, xD
Optical drive	LG GSA-4167B (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 6X DVD+R DL, 4X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 32X CD-RW, 16X DVD, 48X CD)	Sony DW-Q30A (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 8X DVD+R DL, 48X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 16X DVD, 48X CD)	Lite-On SHW-16H55 (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 8X DVD+R DL, 4X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 16X DVD, 48X CD)	HP DVD640i LightScribe (16X DVD+R, 8X DVD-R, 4X DVD+RW, 4X DVD-RW, 2.4X DVD+R DL, 40X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 16X DVD, 40X CD)	Sony DW-Q30A (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 8X DVD+R DL, 48X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 16X DVD, 48X CD), Sony DDU-1612 (16X DVD, 40X CD)	AOpen DUW 1616/ARR (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 4X DVD+RW, 4X DVD-RW, 4X DVD+R DL, 48X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 16X DVD, 48X CD), BenQ DVP 1650T (16X DVD, 48X CD)
DISPLAY						
Size and technology	17" LCD	17" LCD	17" LCD	No display included	17" LCD	17" LCD
Model	Sony SDM-S74EB	ViewSonic VX715	Hyundai Image Quest B70a	N/A	ViewSonic VP171b-2	AOC LM728
Response time	12ms	25ms	8ms	N/A	8ms	8ms
Inputs	D-sub, DVI	D-sub, DVI	D-sub	N/A	DVI, 2x D-sub	D-sub, DVI
OTHER HARDWARE						
Modem	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Keyboard	Microsoft Basic Optical Mouse 1.0A	Logitech Cordless Keyboard	Logitech UltraX Keyboard	HP Cordless Keyboard	Logitech Cordless Keyboard	Microsoft Wireless Optical Desktop Comfort Edition
Mouse	Microsoft Basic Keyboard 1.0A	Logitech Optical Cordless Mouse	Logitech MX Wired Mouse	HP Cordless Optical Mouse	Logitech Optical Cordless Mouse 3000	Microsoft Wireless Optical Mouse 3000
Keyboard/mouse rating	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★	★★★	★★★
Extras		Canon PIXMA MP150		Analogue TV/FM tuner, Media Center remote control, Removable USB hard drive bay		HP PSC 1410
SOFTWARE						
Software included	CyberLink PowerDVD 5, Panda Antivirus Titanium 2004, Roxio EasyCD Creator Suite 7	PC Angel, Bullguard Anti-virus and firewall, Microsoft Works 8, CyberLink PowerDVD 6	Ahead Nero 6	Microsoft Works 8, Sonic DigitalMedia Plus 7, InterVideo WinDVD 5	Microsoft Works 8.5, CyberLink PowerDVD 6, CyberLink Power2Go 4, CyberLink PowerProducer 3, CyberLink PowerDirector 3, CyberLink PowerBackup 1.1, CyberLink PowerCinema 4, CyberLink Medi@Show 3	Microsoft Works 8.5, Ahead Nero 6
Operating system	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Media Center Edition 2005	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Media Center Edition 2005	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home
Operating system restore option	Restore CD and partition	Restore CD	Windows CD	Restore partition	Restore CD	Windows CD
BUYING INFORMATION						
Warranty (parts and labour)	One year onsite	Two years onsite, one year RTB	One year RTB	One year RTB	One year onsite, two years RTB	One year RTB for PC, three years onsite for monitor, one year onsite for printer
Tech support times	9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat	9am-5.30pm Mon-Sat	10am-6pm Mon-Fri	8.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat	9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri	9am-6pm Mon-Fri
Company founded	1972	1983	1999	1939	1987	1993
Tech support staff	20	83	10	Not disclosed	42	3
Employees	130	420	16	Not disclosed	275	68
Price including delivery (inc VAT)	£850	£850	£850	£715	£849	£850
Price including delivery (ex VAT)	£723	£723	£723	£609	£724	£724
Contact	Watford Electronics	Evesham	Gladiator Computers	HP	Mesh Computers	PC Nextday
Phone	0871 666 1616	08701 609500	08456 444666	0870 010 4320	08700 464747	sales@pcnextday.co.uk
Web	www.savastore.com	www.evesham.com	www.gladiatorcomputers.com	www.hp.com/uk	www.meshcomputers.com	www.pcnextday.co.uk